

authority to enter a contingent fee contract. So rather than answer the question yea or nay whether there is a contract, he refused to answer it. Then he proceeded to say he was going to assume that at some point the Legislature may have authorized this to happen so he's going to assume the contract is valid. Then he went on and on for pages. But my contention is that the contract is not valid in the first instance because the Department of Social Services lacks the authority to enter such a contract. But let's say the department would have such authority just for the sake of discussion. I'm going to have a copy of this contract handed around, oh, Kitty has been standing there patiently for the last three minutes or so because my light for a Page was on. She should have just come on over here and said, Ernie, give it up, I mean the contract. I want you to have a copy of this contract on your desks so if you have any interest in following the discussion you can. It is a complex issue, it is a technical area. The Constitution and the law are implicated in this discussion and I hope you will be able to take enough interest to follow the discussion. A policy decision of a very grave and serious nature is before us today, and as you get a copy of this contract, I will now make the comments that I had started to make. It consists of a number of pages and an exhibit, maybe two exhibits, but these are added to the back and they include material that is to be incorporated into the contract. You will notice where the contract is signed that it's not signed by the Governor who is the head official in this state. It's not signed by the head of any department. So what we are being told by the Attorney General in his opinion, what is being maintained by those who want to keep this contract is that an employee who is not the head of a department can sign a contract and bind the state. You'll notice that there are notations I made on this contract. Senator Abboud and I were discussing this very issue over the noonhour and he probably will go into more detail so I'm not going to exhaustively deal with any specific item right now but just kind of giving you an overview. What I hope that you are able to do, which I know you can't, but I'm going to ask you anyway, drop greed from the equation. The way the Speaker is positioned it looks as though he's praying and I would say if I believed in it that I would be praying that you could separate out greed, but this afternoon we're going to have to discuss greed, we're going to have to discuss deception, we're going to have to discuss withholding of information from the public and the Legislature. This that we're talking about is a multimillion dollar contract of a kind never entered into by the state before and it was signed by an